

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00

SS-15 NSC-05 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 OMB-01 L-03 /053 W

-----302015Z 081155 /62

R 301100Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY DOHA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2541

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

USINT BAGHDAD

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

COMIDEASTFOR

CINCUSNAVEUR

USS LA SALLE

C O N F I D E N T I A L DOHA 0525

COMIDEASTFOR KEEP FOR INFO AND PASS TO USS LA SALLE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, QA, US, MASS

SUBJECT: QATAR VISIT OF COMIDEASTFOR AND USS LASALLE

SUMMARY: VISIT OF COMIDEASTFOR AND USS LASALLE TO QATAR HAS MARKED WHAT APPEARS TO BE SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN QATARI ATTITUDES TOWARDS COOPERATION WITH U.S. MILITARY. HIGH-LEVEL ATTENTION, GENERALLY WARM RECEPTION AND EXTENSIVE PUBLICITY ACCORDED VISIT INDICATE THAT GOQ HAS CHANGED ITS ATTITUDE FROM ONE OF CORRECT CORDIALITY TO DEFINITE INTEREST IN CLOSER TIES. THIS HAS ALREADY PRODUCED QATARI-INITIATED REQUEST FOR TRAINING. IN ANY EVENT, VISIT WAS GREAT SUCCESS AND DEFINITE BOOST FOR US IMAGE AND PRESENCE IN QATAR. END SUMMARY.

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1. COMIDEASTFOR RADM WILLIAM CROWE AND FLAGSHIP USS LASALLE UNDER COMMAND OF CAPTAIN J.H. FETTERMAN, WITH CHIEF OF STAFF CAPTAIN A. SMITH ABOARD, VISITED DOHA APRIL 25-27.

2. ACTIVITIES INCLUDED CALL ON SHAYKH HAMAD BIN KHALIFA AL THANI, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF QATARI ARMED FORCES AND AMIR'S

NUMBER ONE SON, WHICH ALSO ATTENDED BY SHAYKH ABDULLAH BIN KHALIFA AL THANI, RECENT SANDHURST GRADUATE, WHO ASSUMING INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT ROLE IN ARMED FORCES, AND AMIR'S NUMBER THREE SON; CALL RETURNED ABOARD LASALLE BY DEPUTY COMMANDER OF QAF BRIGADIER MUHAMMAD AL ATTIYAH; CALL ON SHAYKH ABDUL AZIZ BIN KHALIFA AL THANI, MINISTER OF FINANCE AND PETROLEUM AND AMIR'S NUMBER TWO SON; SCHEDULED CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER SHAYKH SUHAYM BIN HAMAD AL THANI DID NOT COME OFF, BUT FBUHAYM APPEARED INSTEAD AT AMBASSADOR'S RECEPTION TO MEET ADMIRAL CROWE. (AMB'S RECEPTION ALSO ATTENDED BY SHAYKH ABDULLAH.) LUNCH ABOARD LASALLE ATTENDED BY COLONEL SALAH AL DIN AZZAB, NEWLY APPOINTED COMMANDER OF SEA ARM (HE IS AN EGYPTIAN), PLUS OTHER SENIOR QAF OFFICERS. C-IN-C HOSTED RETURN LUNCH FOR COMIDEASTFOR AND LASALLE OFFICERS AT GULF HOTEL. AMBASSADOR HOSTED RECEPTION WHICH WELL ATTENDED BY ABOUT 500 INVITED GUESTS, INCLUDING FONMIN AND SHAYKH ABDULLAH. RECEPTION ABOARD LASALLE FOR 200 GUESTS HIGHLIGHTED BY PERFORMANCES OF BANJO VIRTUOSO AND TWO MUSICAL COMBOS.

3. OTHER ACTIVITIES WERE PUBLIC VISITING OF LASALLE BY ABOUT 900 VISITORS; HOME HOSPITALITY OFFERED OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE LASALLE BY LOCAL AMERICAN COMMUNITY; SPORTS EVENTS, TOURS OF NATIONAL MUSEUM, SUQS, ETC.

4. VISIT WAS VERY WELL PUBLICIZED, WITH TV COVERAGE OF ALL CALLS AND AMB'S RECEPTION. QATAR NEWS AGENCY BULLETIN ALSO CARRIED ITEMS ON SHIP AND ACTIVITIES DURING VISIT.

5. ON SUBSTANTIVE SIDE, DURING CALL ON SHAYKH HAMAD, ADMIRAL CROWE TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE HIM GENERAL PICTURE OF STATUS
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OF MIDEAST FOR PRESENCE ON BAHRAIN. HAMAD REMARKED THAT "HE DID NOT UNDERSTAND" GOB'S DESIRE TO REMOVE US NAVY PRESENCE. HE SAID THAT PRESENCE GAVE GOQ "NO PROBLEMS", BUT DECLINED OUR INVITATION TO SPEAK WITH BAHRAINIS ON SUBJECT. ON GENERAL SECURITY SITUATION, HAMAD EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE CONCERN ABOUT RECENT TREND OF EVENTS IN AFRICA, PARTICULARLY ANGOLA AND ETHIOPIA. HE ALSO INITIATED DISCUSSION OF TRAINING POSSIBILITIES FOR QAF SEA ARM AND CADETS WITH MIDEASTFOR AND IN US (SEPTTEL). BRIG. ATTIYAH SANG HIS FAMILIAR REFRAIN THAT QATARIS WANTED SECURITY ASSISTANCE FROM U.S. BUT THAT WE HAD BEEN UNRESPONSIVE TO GOQ'S REQUESTS; ATTIYAH APPEARED MUCH COOLER THAN HAMAD ON US TRAINING ASSISTANCE FOR QAF. WITH MINFINANCE AND PETROLEUM SHAYKH ABDUL AZIZ, THERE WAS DISCUSSION OF TANKER HIJACKING THREAT IN GULF AND ROLE OF US AND FRIENDLY FORCES IN SUCH EVENTUALITY. ABDUL AZIZ INDICATED KNOWLEDGE OF PERIODIC THREATS OF TANKER HIJACKING AND NECESSITY OF OUR BEING ABLE TO WORK TOGETHER SHOULD SUCH AN EVENT OCCUR. THERE WAS ALSO SPIRITED DISCUSSION OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S ENERGY PROPOSALS, WHICH HAS BEEN SEPARATELY REPORTED.

6. COMMENT: COMIDEASTFOR/LASALLE VISIT WAS GREAT SUCCESS. GOQ RECEPTION VERY WARM AND HIGH-LEVEL RULING FAMILY ATTENTION TO VISIT MOST NOTABLE. FACT THAT C-IN-C BESTIRRED HIMSELF TO RECEIVE COMIDEASTFOR AND TO SHOW UP FOR HIS OWN LUNCHEON, PLUS FONMIN'S ATTENDANCE AT AMB'S RECEPTION IS UNUSUAL SHOW OF INTEREST AND COURTESY FROM RULING FAMILY. HAMAD'S INITIATION OF TRAINING REQUEST ALSO DEPARTURE FROM OUR PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH HIM. EXTENSIVE PUBLICITY GIVEN VISIT REINFORCES OUR VIEW THAT IT REPRESENTS CHANGE IN GOQ ATTITUDE FROM ONE OF CORRECT CORDIALITY TO ONE OF DEFINITE INTEREST IN CLOSER COOPERATION WITH MIDEASTFOR AND, BY EXTENSION, US MILITARY. THIS APPARENT WARMING UP OF QATARIS UNDOUBTEDLY ENCOURAGED BY OPENNESS, FRIENDLINESS AND SUPERB APPEARANCE AND CONDUCT OF CAPTAINS FETTERMAN AND SMITH AND OFFICERS AND MEN OF LASALLE. VISIT WAS DEFINITE BOOST FOR US IMAGE AND PRESENCE IN QATAR, AND BECAUSE OF IT THERE IS NOW GREATER PROMISE OF CLOSER US-QATARI

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TIES. COMIDEASTFOR AND OFFICERS AND MEN OF LASALLE ARE TO BE COMMENDED FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO POSSIBLE EXPANSION OF OUR RELATIONS WITH THIS COUNTRY.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Transfer Date:
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SAS ID: 2694431
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: QATAR VISIT OF COMIDEASTFOR AND USS LASALLE SUMMARY: VISIT OF COMIDEASTFOR AND USS LASALLE TO QATAR HAS MARKED WHAT APPEARS TO BE SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN QA
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, QA, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/80961c9f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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